

Procurement List; Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Addition to the Procurement List

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List commodities to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 25, 1996, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (61 FR 55268) of proposed additions to the Procurement List. Comments were received from the current contractor for the Air Force women's garrison caps. That contractor described its position as precarious and attributed the reductions in its workforce over the past six years to Committee decisions to place several other military caps on its Procurement List. The contractor advised that the addition of the cap to the Procurement List would put an end to its enterprise.

The Committee is aware that substantial reductions in troop strength in all military services in recent years have decreased the requirements for these caps and other types of headgear. In fact, the nonprofit agency that would produce these caps has experienced significant reductions in orders for the Air Force men's caps, which is why it is seeking the additional work represented by the women's caps.

The Committee believes it is primarily the changes in troop strength and the current contractor's failure to secure other Federal and commercial business that have led to the decline in that firm's workforce and sales and not previous actions by the Committee. This belief is supported by the fact that the current annual value of the types of caps made under the JWOD Program that have been made in the past by the current contractor is substantially less than the decline in the current contractor's sales over the past six years.

The Committee also noted that while it has placed the Air Force men's garrison caps and a small portion of the Army men's garrison caps on its Procurement List, the current contractor will continue to have the ability to bid

on substantial other Government business. This business includes the vast majority of the Army men's garrison caps, the Army women's garrison caps, and all the Marine and Coast Guard garrison caps. The current contractor will also have the opportunity to continue to bid on all service cap covers. Moreover, the Committee will not be adding any more caps of this type or any service cap covers to the Procurement List for at least five years without the prior approval of the current contractor and another firm that makes these types of caps.

The Committee also noted that the caps in question did not represent a substantial portion of the current contractor's business during the past year and prior to August of 1996 had not been supplied by the current contractor for several years.

Since it has remained in business without sales of this cap or the Air Force men's cap for three to five years, the firm is not, in the Committee's opinion, dependent on the sales of either cap for its continued survival.

Overall, the Committee has concluded that because of the significant opportunities that will continue to be available to the current contractor to bid on other caps and cap covers and the firm's lack of dependence on this particular item, addition of these caps is not likely to result in an end to the enterprise. However, to give the current contractor additional time to adjust to the market changes, the Committee has decided to permit half of the initial FY 1997 requirement for the caps in question to be procured competitively.

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodities and impact of the addition on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodities listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodities to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodities.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodities proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following commodities are hereby added to the Procurement List:

Cap, Garrison, Women's (USAF)

8410-01-381-5481
8410-01-381-5559
8410-01-381-5544
8410-01-381-5566
8410-01-381-5521
8410-01-381-5536
8410-01-381-5507
8410-01-381-5612
8410-01-381-5627
8410-01-381-5647
8410-01-381-5504

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

Beverly L. Milkman,

Executive Director.

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Procurement List; Proposed Addition

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled

ACTION: Proposed Addition to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received a proposal to add to the Procurement List a service to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: February 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a) (2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed action.

If the Committee approves the proposed addition, all entities of the Federal Government (except as